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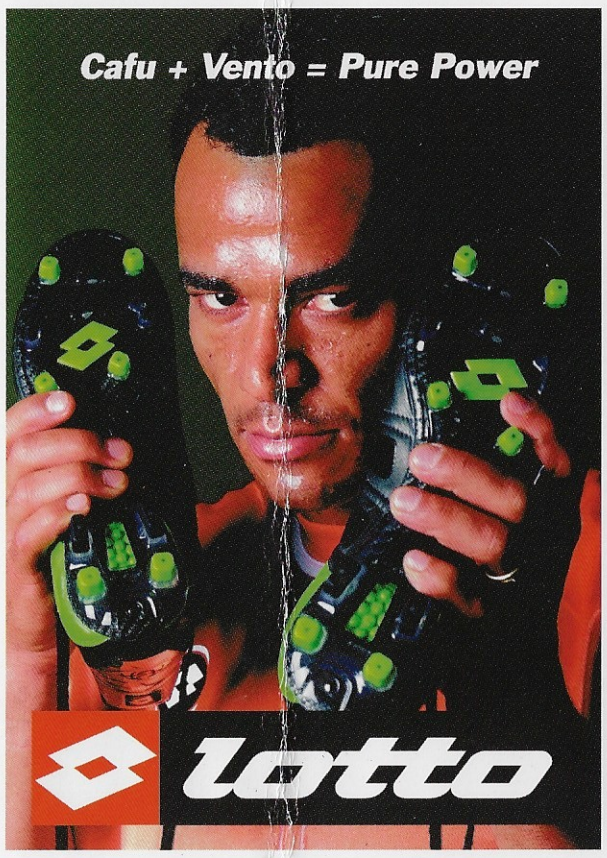

Chairman's Message

It's been a while since we've played a match in the NSL and through that lay-off we have celebrated Christmas. May I, on behalf of all at Northern Spirit, say that I hope your Christmas was an enjoyable one and that the New Year brings you all health, happiness and prosperity.

Tonight we face Brisbane Strikers who have been getting their game together, especially away from home, in recent weeks. It will be a tough match.

I should like to thank everyone for their support in these past weeks. It has been a tremendous lift for the players.

I would also like to congratulate our players in the Young Socceroos for the part they have played in the success of the side so far. I'm sure they will have a long and bright future in the game.

To everyone, have a safe and happy festive season and we'll see you at the game against Newcastle United next year.

Best wishes,

Antonio Gelonesi

View From The Top

The game against the Knights was a good measuring stick for us this season and I thought a couple of our younger players really came of age in that match. It is no surprise that three of them have been away with the Young Socceroos, the reason we have not played an NSL game in three weeks.

Obviously the enforced break has its good as well as flip side. On the one hand it has given the rest of the squad the opportunity to recover from the niggling injuries that all players suffer during a season. However it also means the guys have not had a competitive match for three weeks.

I don't think the boys will be rusty when taking on the Strikers tonight and we hope the break will have had the opposite effect and they will come out firing on all cylinders. Of course, we won't know that until the game starts.

It's been difficult to keep the motivation up during this time so we have adopted several differing training techniques that we wouldn't, perhaps, have normally used. Needless to say it was important to vary training and keep the guys interested.

As I make these notes some time before the match, due to publishing deadlines over the Christmas period, I cannot really relate to what is

NORTHERN SPIRIT
V
BRISBANE STRIKERS

Friday 27th December

GATES OPEN AT 5.30PM - KICK OFF AT 7.30PM

happening in the NSL or our opponents tonight. Obviously the Sharks and Glory are travelling well and in the Strikers we meet a team that, like us, possess a 'never say die' attitude.

It should make for an open, attacking and thrilling game tonight.

May I say on behalf of the players, backroom staff and myself that I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and that Santa was good to you? May we also wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Keep up the vocal support, as I mention each week it has been brilliant and is greatly appreciated by all. Try not to lose them during the festivities of the next week.

Best wishes for the remainder of the festive season and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Lawrie McKinna

Happy Birthday at North Sydney Oval

Looking for an original birthday party idea?? If you are 13 and under, why not have your birthday party at the North Sydney Oval at one of our home games? The cost is $20 per child (minimum of 10 children) and the package includes:

- VIP match ticket in the Corporate Box
- Drink and Hot Dog
- Photo on the pitch with your birthday group
- Northern Spirit Roadshow
- 1 signed football
- Visit from first team players

Call 9460 2187 and book your party early!!!

Northern Spirit Soccer Camps

Our celebrated Northern Spirit Soccer Camps will be running over the January School holidays on the following days and locations:

- Learn & Develop new soccer skills
- Meet 1st team players
- Qualified coaches
- Indoor facilities at all venues
- Northern Spirit gift for all attendees

Venue 1: Jacksons Road Playing Fields, Warriewood

Monday 13th Jan – Friday 17th Jan

Venue 2: Cromer Park, 101 South Creek Road, Dee Why

Monday 20th Jan – Friday 24th Jan

The camps will run from 9am – 3pm. Ages 6-16 years for both boys and girls

Cost $35.00 per day or $150 for full 5 day course. To book your child's space, order an application form, or simply for more information call (02) 8904 1487 or send an email to marketing@northernspirit.com.au.

Cadbury Ice Cream Loyalty Card Holders

Calling all our registered Cadbury Ice Cream Loyalty cardholders do not miss out, make sure you attend the match on the 5th January at Brookvale Oval v Newcastle United. Every Loyalty cardholder that attends the game will receive a special Northern Spirit and Cadbury Ice Cream gift. Gifts will be handed out from the merchandise caravan to every Loyalty card-holder attending – don't forget your cards and passports.

The Spirit of Good Business

Why not treat your valued clients to a night at the football, to see Northern Spirit do battle in the National Soccer League. You will be surprised by the value for money corporate packages available at the picturesque North Sydney Oval and Brookvale Oval. Corporate Boxes, or a spot in the Mollie Dive Stand, whatever your needs, we can meet them to make your night a memorable one. Special New Year packages are now available. We have function rooms to cater for private parties as large as 200, or as small as ten. For more information, send an email to marketing@northernspirit.com.au or contact the club on 9460 2187.

Spirit Scorers 2002/03 (& NSL)

Vuko Tomasevic	4	NSL	4
John Hutchinson	4	NSL	14
Noel Spencer	1	NSL	4
John Richter	2	NSL	2
Andy McDermott	1	NSL	2
Brent Fisher	1	NSL	1
Adam Kwasnik	1	NSL	4

Brisbane Strikers Scorers 2002/03 (& NSL)

Peter Grierson	3	NSL	16
Fernando Rech	7	NSL	26
Anthony Roche	4	NSL	4
David Pilic	2	NSL	5
Kris Trajanovski	2	NSL	76
Lawrence Drake	1	NSL	1
Stuart McLaren	1	NSL	10

(After Rd 13)

Team	P	W	D	L	bye	F	A	Pts
Olympic Sharks	12	9	2	1	1	27	14	29
Perth Glory	12	9	0	3	1	24	11	27
Sth Melb	12	6	2	4	1	21	18	20
New Utd	12	5	2	5	1	18	13	17
Foot Kingz	12	4	4	4	1	16	14	16
W'gong Wolves	12	4	4	4	1	14	15	16
Ad City Force	12	4	3	5	1	18	17	15
Syd Utd	12	4	3	5	1	12	16	15
Melb Knights	12	3	5	4	1	20	25	14
Parra Power	11	3	3	5	1	14	15	12
Brisbane Str	12	3	2	7	1	20	28	11
N Spirit	10	3	2	5	1	14	23	11
M Stallions	11	2	2	7	1	9	18	8

Leading Scorer (After Rd 13)

Damian Mori	Perth Glory	12
Joel Griffiths	New Utd	8
Anthony Pelikan	Melb Knights	8
Stuart Young	W'gong Wolves	8
Fernando Rech	Brisbane Str	7
Patricio Almendra	Foot Kingz	6
Brad Hassell	Perth Glory	6
Harry Ngata	Foot Kingz	6
Vaughan Coveny	Sth Melb	5
Ante Milicic	Oly Sharks	5

Our Visitors Tonight

This evening we entertain the Brisbane Strikers here at North Sydney Oval in a match where a draw is the most prevalent result between the two sides. Indeed, of the ten times these teams have met in competition it has ended all square but with plenty of goalmouth action and a hatful of goals to show for it.

The Strikers have not been traveling too well at home this season but they went to Perth and secured a 4-3 victory in one of the hardest places to get a result and it is on the road that they have capitalized thus far. Draws with Newcastle and Melbourne Knights - both 3-3 at that - show that they can score goals but the defence also leaks plenty too.

The record books these encounters as this: P10 W2 D5 L3 F10 A16 with the home stats as follows: P5 W2 D2 L1 F5 A5.

Jason Kearton (#1) has returned from many successful years in England to act as custodian and is a marvelous shot stopper.

Stuart McLaren (# 5) is the captain of the side and a solid leader for the club. Born in Glasgow (Scotland) he moved to Brisbane when 5-years old and then later to Rockhampton. He attended the A.I.S. from 92-93 and then returned to Scotland to play for Stirling Albion where, in 49 matches, he netted 9-goals. Also had a stint with Rangers (Hong Kong), before returning to Australia and joining the Strikers. He began his career with Wollongong Wolves where he played 23 times during 1993 and 1996.

Fernando Rech (#7) is one to watch for and scores many vital goals for the side. He is the playmaker of the side and requires close attention.

Coach John Kosmina really needs no introduction to Australian fans and has gone down in the folklore of the code here. He scored the first ever NSL goal when netting against Canberra City for Adelaide Sharks on April 2, 1977. Went on to score 133 goals in 289 NSL matches for the Sharks, Adelaide City (his home town), Sydney City, Olympic Sharks and Leichhardt between 1977 and 1989. He also had a stint with Arsenal in the old English First Division in 1978. Former coach of Newcastle Breakers, he joined the Strikers in 99/00. A wily campaigner.

Kris Trajanovski (#10) is another to watch for. He can play on the wing, through the midfield or as a striker and is never more dangerous than when weaving his way toward goal. Approaching his 30th birthday he can still pose an almighty threat to any defence.

continued on page 6...

#	NORTHERN SPIRIT PLAYER	POSITION	D.O.B
1	Lupce Acevski	Goalkeeper	14/11/77
2	Julian Watts	Defender	17/03/71
3	Simon Bell	Defender	21/10/78
4	Noel Spencer	Midfield	26/07/77
5	Alex Tobin	Defender	03/11/65
6	Robbie Trajkovski	Midfield	24/07/72
7	Andrew McDermott	Midfield	24/03/77
8	Ian Ferguson	Midfield	15/03/67
9	Adam Kwasnik	Striker	31/05/83
10	Dylan Macallister	Striker	17/05/82
11	Troy Cranney	Midfield	09/02/72
12	John Hutchinson	Midfield	29/12/79
14	Michael Cartwright	Defender	03/08/79
15	Vuko Tomasevic	Midfield	13/05/80
16	Brent Fisher	Striker	06/07/83
17	Hamilton Thorp	Striker	21/08/73
18	Alex Wilkinson	Defender	13/08/84
19	Jeremy Seales	Defender	17/02/76
20	Paul Henderson	Goalkeeper	22/04/76
21	Sean Walsh	Midfield	14/02/84
22	Matthew Osman	Defender	29/07/83
23	Steven Baveas	Midfield	07/04/84
24	Mitchell Prentice	Midfield	02/03/83
25	Marcus Phillips	Midfield	17/10/73
26	Aaron Burgess	Striker	10/11/78
27	Jonathan Richter	Midfield	12/04/83
28	Matthew Hunter	Defender	29/04/84
30	Jacob Rex	Goalkeeper	04/10/84
32	Adam Foti	Striker	20/02/84
33	Russell Woodruffe	Striker	08/11/85

#	BRISBANE STRIKERS PLAYER	POSITION	D.O.B
1	Jason Kearton	Goalkeeper	09/07/69
2	Richie Alagich	Defender	30/10/73
3	Shane Stefanutto	Defender	12/01/80
4	Jonathan McKain	Defender	21/09/82
5	Stuart McLaren	Defender	28/08/75
6	Peter Grierson	Midfield	02/02/70
7	Fernando Rech	Midfield	13/03/74
8	Adam Webber	Midfield	19/07/82
9	Stephen Laybutt	Defender	03/09/77
10	Kris Trajanovski	Striker	19/02/72
11	John Carbone	Midfield	30/07/77
12	David Pilic	Midfield	08/09/78
13	Wayne Heath	Defender	28/04/83
14	Daniel Dreger	Midfield	02/01/82
15	Matthew McKay	Midfield	11/01/83
17	Chris Scuderi	Midfield	22/02/83
18	Lawrence Drake	Striker	18/12/81
19	Joshua Rose	Striker	16/12/81
20	Corey Baldock	Goalkeeper	11/06/75
21	Anthony Roche	Striker	17/08/76

At time of going to press the Strikers were anchored firmly to the bottom of the table and with limited resources and a thin squad, Kosmina will have to perform miracles to get the side out of that position. However, expect them to upset a few teams during the remainder of the campaign as they are a side that keeps going and never give up until the final whistle has blown.

Goalkeeping Blues

As Damian Mori needs three more goals to reach the 200-NSL goal mark (at time of writing), it's time to take a look at the much maligned and often under-rated custodian. Yes, the last line of defence, the rock at the back, the glove man or, in other words, the goalkeeper.

Standing as the last man between your team winning or losing is daunting enough but it takes a special kind of person to keep concentration when the ball is not in your area for much of the game. You need sharp and instant reflexes, the agility of a cat and, as is often muted, an IQ lower than your shoe size!

What breed of man delights in stopping a ball fired in at him at over 70kph. A man who will dive at the feet of players in a melee or at a striker bearing down on them at full tilt? And you wonder why they say drummers and goalkeepers are a couple of 'Roos short in the top paddock.

Of course, the 'keeper cannot stop everything at coming his way. The merest deflection has him wrong footed, a dodgy bounce and it's in the net or a clinical finish and the bloke between the sticks is made to look pretty foolish at times.

With some 227 goals scored up to and including round 13, it is surprising to see how few or many goals have been scored against the 'keepers, with very few being penalties. Here's the list to Round 13:

TEAM	GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL GOALS	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
Adelaide City Force	3.2 4.8 4	5 6 6	MARTIN GODLEY SCARSELLA	Ian Daniel David
Brisbane Strikers	12	28	KEARTON	Jason
Kingz FC	9 3	8 6	UTTING BANNATYNE	Michael James
Marconi Stallions	11	18	TURNBULL	Michael
Melbourne Knights	9.6 2.4	19 6	JOHN HREHORESIN	Martin Adam
Newcastle United	12	13	BELTRAME	Daniel
Northern Spirit	10	23	HENDERSON	Paul
Olympic Sharks	12	14	BOLTON	Clint
Parramatta Power	9 2	11 4	REDDY VUKOVIC	Liam Danny
Perth Glory	12	11	PETKOVIC	Jason
South Melbourne	7 5	14 4	ANASTASIADIS GALEKOVIC	Dean Eugene
Sydney United	11.8 0.2	16 0	IVESA PEROSH	Vanja John
Wollongong Wolves	12 152	15 227	CREWS	Andrew

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003

NORTHERN DIVISION - RESULTS – ROUND 12

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2002

QAS (Own goal 24')	1	ACTAS (Barisic 2' 24' 36')	3
Canberra Deakin (Spaleta 31' pen 87', Caldwell 60')	3	Newcastle United Youth (Wilkinson 18', A. Hughes 53')	2
AIS (Jankovski 7', Celeski 36')	2	Marconi Mustangs	0

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2002

Parramatta Power Youth (R.Cardozo 2' 8', Kerr 52')	3	Sydney United Youth (Collina 61', Urizar 62')	2
Marconi Stallions Youth (Talevski 67')	1	Northern Spirit Youth (Woodruffe 25' pen)	1

BYE – Olympic Sharks Youth
BYE – Wollongong Wolves Youth

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003

NORTHERN DIVISION - LEAGUE LADDER – ROUND 12

TEAM	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	10	7	2	2	1	30	14	**23**
AIS	9	5	3	2	1	14	6	**18**
Canberra Deakin	11	5	2	2	4	28	17	**17**
Wollongong Wolves Youth	9	5	2	2	2	20	11	**17**
Sydney United Youth	9	5	0	2	4	25	15	**15**
Olympic Sharks Youth	11	3	5	1	3	13	12	**14**
Newcastle United Youth	10	3	4	1	3	16	14	**13**
ACTAS	8	4	1	2	3	14	14	**13**
Northern Spirit Youth	9	3	3	2	3	7	6	**12**
QAS	10	2	2	2	6	13	28	**8**
Marconi Stallions Youth	10	2	2	2	6	10	27	**8**
Marconi Mustangs	10	0	2	2	8	2	28	**2**

Pre And After Match Venue

Northern Spirit have been talking with the Anzac Memorial Club and are pleased to announce that all Spirit fans are welcome to attend their own spacious private room before and after matches at North Sydney Oval if numbers are sufficient.

The Anzac Memorial Club has started their very own 5-a-side soccer tournament and are interested in any Spirit fans making up a team by contacting the club directly.

The club boasts ample parking for fans and beer prices at $3 a schooner plus the private room can be decorated with REMOVABLE Spirit items during home matches and all ages are welcome to attend.

This is seen as a healthy working relationship between the soccer and social club and all supporters are urged to try out the venue at the next home game vs. Grand Final winners Olympic Sharks on the 15th November. A selection of players will be in attendance at the after match function.

It is envisaged that the Anzac Memorial Club will replace the gatherings at the smaller venue of the Bowling Club that proved very popular in the past and an opportunity to rekindle the atmosphere and fun that venue offered supporters.

Cadbury ice cream

Next home game at

NORTHERN SPIRIT

V

NEWCASTLE UNITED

FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY - GATES OPEN AT 3.30PM

KICK OFF AT 5.00PM

BROOKVALE OVAL

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